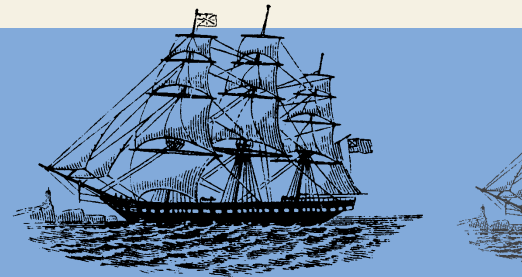


THE ASMA WAR OF 1812 PROJECT



UPDATE & STATUS REPORT: A CALL FOR 1812 ART BY ASMA ARTISTS

As explained in the last issue of *ASMA News & Journal* (See the ASMA web site for a copy if you don't have one - pages 16-17), the ASMA Exhibition Committee has been working on a project to celebrate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 using a new and exciting approach for the Society - a dedicated web site. Key to its success will be participation of ASMA artists who have created or will create scenes of the War that can be used to illustrate the storyline of the War. If this is you, please read this carefully for it offers exceptional opportunities to have your work seen over an extended period of time by potentially tens of millions of viewers.

WWW.WAROF1812ILLUSTRATED.ORG THE CONCEPT

The concept is simple. The web site will have a concise storyline; this will be the chronological history of events leading up to the War, starting from the Quasi War of 1798 – 1800, going through the Barbary Wars of the early Eighteen Hundreds and on to the War itself which began in the middle of 1812 and lasted until early 1815. Three faculty members of the History Department of Temple University in Philadelphia, Professor Seth Bruggeman, Christopher Golding and Joshua Wolfe, are writing the narration and they have completed the first draft.



The USS Constitution • John Stobart

There will be two sources of images to “illustrate” this storyline: art and scrimshaw by ASMA artists and art and artifacts from the permanent collections of select sister institutions. These include the United States Navy as well as museums and historical societies here in the United States, in Canada and in the United Kingdom (the three participants in the War). Under the direction of Mike Killelea, and with the assistance of a number of ASMA members, discussions with sister Canadian museums and historical societies are progressing nicely. As to the United Kingdom, the Committee decided to start at the top and got formal introductions to the Director of the British National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, England. We are pleased to report that they have opened their very considerable permanent collection to us for use on the web site. 1812 Committee members Patrick O'Brien and Mike Killelea have been sifting through the collection for appropriate images. With the assistance of other ASMA members residing in the UK, we are now approaching other sister institutions there.

WWW.WAROF1812ILLUSTRATED.ORG THE HOMEPAGE

Emphasizing the international dimension of the new web site – the war, after all, was fought in Canada as well as in the United States and in British, Canadian and American waters in addition to the high seas of the Atlantic and Pacific – and paying tribute to the two hundred years of strong bonds that have allied the three participants following the War, Mike Killelea has designed a striking home page using abstractions of their three flags as a banner and featuring in the center a single image that will be periodically changed during the Bicentennial to reflect developments of the War two hundred years earlier. As the body of the web site gets fleshed out, there will be further refinements on the home page but the goal will remain the same: A striking presentation that invites

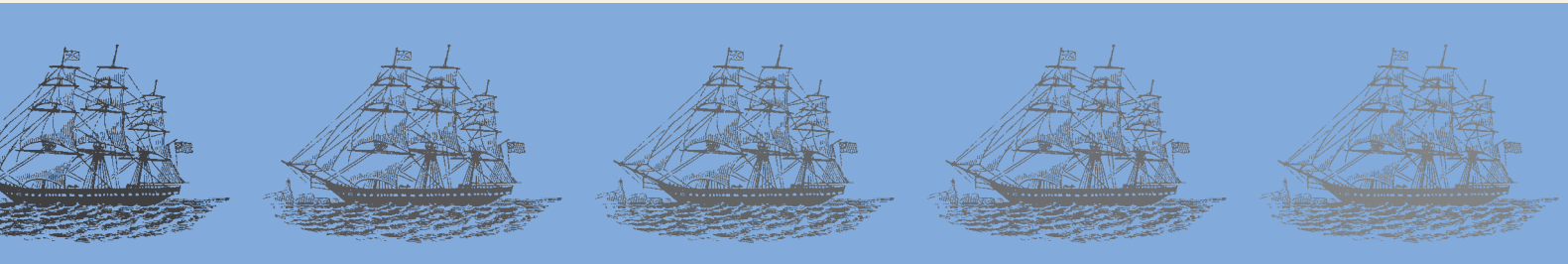
a viewer to enter and see the changes in the web site that will occur throughout the three year period of the War.



1812 Website Home Page image,
The USS Constitution vs. HMS Macedonian ©Patrick O'Brien

The new web site will be “dynamic” and evolve and change over its projected three to four year life span. This will allow us to highlight with supplemental narrative and images events as they happened two hundred years before. It also gives our artists more time to paint various scenes in the course of the next three years for use on the web site. A very important consideration ASMA members should bear in mind is the simple fact that the Committee only wants an image of your work, not the original. Moreover, although the Society as a 501.C.3 organization does not commercially promote members' work, the obvious cannot be overlooked. As the media pick up on the War and as considerable celebrations occur from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico during the three year period, the image of your work on our web site, coupled with contact information that will be in the web site, could well find a collector for the original if it is not first sold to another buyer while displayed in a gallery. And remember, artists almost always retain the copyright to their work so, even if the original has been sold, the artist can use the image on the 1812 web site.

The Committee can provide to interested ASMA members a large



spreadsheet that documents the battles leading up to and throughout the War, the ships that participated, the names of their commanders, and the location of the encounters. The Committee can also provide another spreadsheet that inventories the paintings (ships, battles, location, etc.) already submitted by ASMA artists. This way any member interested in working on new work over the next three years can make a sound determination about just when it will be needed (no later than 200 years from the date of the event) and what it should be (something not already well represented in our inventory).



"H.M.S. ONTARIO Departing Ft. Niagara, Oct. 31, 1780"
Bob Averill

As this article goes to press, ASMA artists have submitted about sixty paintings. So far we have no scrimshaw so you scrimshanders please submit images of your relevant work as well. Over the years there have been some stunning scrimshaw pieces rendering the heroes and ships of that era – works that would make a fine addition to the web site. As to subject matter, not surprisingly we have some redundancy of famous single ship sea battles but do have an encouraging geographic representation of depicted events – from the Med (Barbary Wars), to the Atlantic (frigate engagements), to the Caribbean (Quasi War), to the Chesapeake Bay, to the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain, and even to the Pacific. But the Committee could use many additional works and they need not be naval fighting ships but could be port

scenes of the time, merchant ships of the era, and the various land engagements.

Members of the Committee are having promising discussions with well-known and respected authors, lecturers and experts on the War. Of particular note is William H. White, an award winning author and historian who has specialized in American maritime heritage in the age of sail for most of his adult life. A Navy officer with three years experience in Vietnam and with first hand experience sailing all sorts of vessels – from square riggers to racing craft, he brings to his writing the knowledge and experience that make his sea fiction books come alive. He has written a War of 1812 Trilogy (*A Press of Canvas; A Fine Tops'l Breeze;* and *The Evening Gun*, all published by Tiller Publishing in 2000 – 2001) as well as one about Stephen Decatur's exploits in the Barbary Wars, *The Greater Honor*, published by Cumberland House Publishing in 2008. But he also writes history and serves as the Chair of the National Maritime Historical Society's Committee for the Commemoration and Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the Star Spangled Banner. He has been writing an engaging series of articles for the National Maritime Historical Society's magazine, *Sea History*, that give an historical accounting of specific 1812 naval engagements. The most recent of these, illustrated by ASMA Signature Member Patrick O'Brien and other historical artists, appears in the current issue and is entitled *The War of 1812: USS United States vs. HMS Macedonian, 25 October 1812.*

He has written a book that will be available this December published by the National Maritime Historical Society Sea History Press entitled *Our Flag Was Still There: The Sea History Press Guide to the War of 1812, Its History and Bicentennial Commemorations.* White uses the book to explain the issues that led up to the War – the political tensions, events and the key players – and then

guides the reader through the highlights of both the land campaigns and sea battles, answering the questions: "What really happened?" and "Why does it matter?" But the book also serves as a guide to upcoming bicentennial celebrations across the country – exhibits, parades, reenactments, concerts, air shows, naval events, fireworks and more. Key port cities from New Orleans to Boston and the Great Lakes will host OpSail 2012 and its spectacular parade of international tall ships, Fleet Weeks, and other U.S. Navy commemorative events. Clearly, working with William H. White with his command of this period of American history will bring much to our website and make it all the more relevant and dynamic.



"PRIVATEER RATTLESNAKE"
Watercolor by Richard C. Moore

So, if you are willing to create something new or if you have something already done (scrimshaw as well as paintings), please e-mail Charlie Robinson (crasrob@aol.com) and he will send you both spreadsheets so you can see the wide range of choices. Remember, there is a long time horizon here so you could do a work anytime over the next three years. And if you have any suggestions about "sister institutions" that might be interested in joining us or if you would like to lend a hand in this effort, please contact Charlie, Patrick O'Brien (obrienstudio@comcast.net) or Mike Killelea (art@killelear.com). But the sooner, the better – both for the exposure of your art and for the early success of the web site.